

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A network router comprising:
 - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
 - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
 - an output port selector which selects an output port for a packet from a composite port.
2. A router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the output port selector balances load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
3. A router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the output port selector dynamically balances load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
4. A router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the output port selector determines the output port within a composite port by table lookup.
5. A method of routing packets in a network comprising:
 - identifying a destination of the packets;
 - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, and forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.
6. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the trunk is selected to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
7. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the trunk is selected to dynamically balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
8. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the trunk is selected by a table lookup.

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9. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the destination of the packets is identified from a final destination identifier included in the packet.
10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the network is the Internet and the packets are routed under an Internet protocol.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the network is the Internet and the packets are routed under an Internet protocol.